(e) BIFR has considered the DRSs in the hearings held in Feb. 2002 and is expected to finalise the Schemes soon.

Increasing silk production and expansion of mulberry plantation

748. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of the Union Government to increase silk production and expansion of mulberry plantation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have submitted the proposals for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A target of 26,450 MT raw silk production is envisaged during the X Plan period as against the target of 18,395 MT raw silk production during the IX Plan period. This includes mulberry raw silk production of 24,150 MT.

(c) and (d) The State Government are sending proposals to the Central Silk Board for financial assistance under the Catalytic Development Schemes being implemented by the Central Silk Board in collaboration with the State Governments.

Study on the status of the handloom industry

749. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission had commissioned a study on the status of the handloom industry in the country with special reference to the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details and recommendations of the study;

(c) the Ministry's response to the study; and

(d) whether the Ministry is ready to take the study as starting point for the future programme for revival of the handloom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Plannning Commission has informed that it had provided financial assistance to an organization for carrying out a study on growth and prospects of the Handloom Industry.

(b) The study is reported to have provided detailed field level data regarding cotton handloom weaving in order to assess the strength and problem areas in this sector. It has also suggested that by addressing the urgent needs of the handloom industry, substantial growth both employment & output can be achieved. It has also suggested that only a holistic approach to the inter-linked issues will provide an impetus to the growth prospects of the handloom industry.

(c) and (d) The Report is with the Planning Commission. Hence the Textile Ministry has not had any occasion to examine or respond to the findings contained in the study.

Financial position of NTC Mills

750. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the financial position of National Textile Mills, year-wise since 1995-96;

(b) the steps taken by Government for restructuring of NTC mills and extent of their success;

(c) the future plans to accelerate the modernization and restructuring of NTC mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) A statement showing profit & loss position of the NTC mills from the year 1995-96 to 2000-01 is enclosed (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Government have decided to revive all revivable mills and close the non-revivable one after giving attractive VRS options to workers. Government have already communicated this approach to BIFR and have also given "in principle' commitment for certain financial sacrifices for revival of the Companies. The BIFR is finalising Rehabilitation Schemes for 8 sick subsidiaries. Action will be taken as per schemes sanctioned by BIFR.